



Penny Bernard Schaber

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 57th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Serving the heart of Appleton

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Rep. Bernard Schaber Introduces Bill to Add Transparency to State Budgeting Process

AB 382 requires policy items in the budget to be heard individually

MADISON- State Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber (D-Appleton) has introduced a bill related to the consideration of nonfiscal policy items in the budget. This bill was circulated for co-sponsorship in the Legislature in October and was assigned a bill number and referred to a committee today.

“After being a part of two budgets, both as a majority and minority member, and witnessing multiple budgets as a citizen, I feel it is important to directly address the issue of nonfiscal items that are included by both parties in the budget. I have heard from many constituents and fellow legislators who feel that this should not be the case.”

This bill provides a process and requirement that all nonfiscal items that are included in the Governor’s budget be removed and then allows the co-chairs of Joint Finance to introduce them as separate bills. It also prohibits the Joint Finance Committee from recommending passage of a budget bill or any amendments that include nonfiscal policy items. It also prohibits either house of the legislature from passing amendments or a budget bill that contains these items.

“If legislators or the governor want to pass policy items, they should be required to go through the usual committee process, with a public hearing on each issue. The budget should not be a vehicle for pushing through controversial policies that have no bearing on the finances of the State of Wisconsin.”

This bill addresses the issue of nonfiscal policy items in the budget and provides accountability, transparency and clarity to the budget process.

AB 382 has been referred to the Assembly Ways and Means and I hope that this committee will take up this bill to help bring transparency and accountability to Wisconsin’s budgeting process.

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